

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9, 13-26, 30 and 31 are rejected. Claims 10-12, 27-29 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No claims are allowed.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 12, 16, 23, 28 and 29 have been amended to more particularly define the subject matter the Applicants consider their invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from claims 2 and 10 and claim 27, respectively, and claims 12 and 29 have been rewritten as independent claims incorporating the limitations from claim 1 and claim 23, respectively. Claims 3-8, 11, 16 and 28 have been amended accordingly to change their dependencies. Claims 2, 10, 13-15, 27, and 30-32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 16-26, 28 and 29 are presented for further proceedings. Reconsideration of the claim rejections and allowance of the pending claims in view of the amendments above and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

a. Claims 1-8 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Pagay et al., US 5,411,488 ("Pagay") in view of Horita et al., US 6,796,216 ("Horita"). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from claims

2 and 10, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

b. Claims 9 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Pagay in view of Grimard, US 5,795,337 ("Grimard"). Claims 9 and 22 depend from claim 1, which has been amended to recite subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

c. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Pagay and Horita in view of Eykmann et al, US 5,620,423 ("Eykmann"). Claims 13-15 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

d. Claims 23-26, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable for the reasons given above for claim 1-9 and 12-22. Claims 30 and 31 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. With regard to claims 23-26, claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from claim 27, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants also note that claims 12 and 29 have been rewritten as independent claims incorporating the limitations from claim 1 and claim 23, which the Examiner has indicated renders them allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

It is believed that claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 16-26, 28 and 29 are now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. The Examiner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overcharges to Deposit Account No. 50-3329. Please contact the undersigned if any further issues remain to be addressed in connection with this submission.

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Respectfully submitted,

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